A Brief Guide for Families, Organizations and Public Officials

Resources to inform, support and prepare families for a possible return to Mexico

WHAT IS AN APOSTILLE?

An Apostille is a certificate issued by a designated authority that authenticates the seal and signature of an official document. It certifies the document is legitimate, but not the content on the document itself. In Mexico apostilles are required on most foreign documents to be valid for government procedures. The apostille is obtained in the U.S. through the Department of State of the state where the original document was issued. Each Department of State has its own regulations to issue an apostille. Costs range between $2 and $20 U.S. dollars per document.



It is best to apostille all official documents before leaving the U.S. (such as birth certificates and school documents), but if this is not possible, the apostille can be processed by mail from Mexico. The specific instructions, formats and physical address and/or PO Box of the Department of State office where you will be sending your original documents can be found **online**. If you have a trusted person in the U.S. it may be easier to ask her/him to take the documents to the Department of State office and then send the apostilled documents directly to you in Mexico. Otherwise, you will have to set up the mailing service and payment from Mexico through an international courier service such as DHL or FedEx.

